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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,841	11/16/2001	Tsutomu Hara	501.40846X00	7570

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, ANNETTE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2825

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,841

Applicant(s)

HARA ET AL.

Examiner

A. M. Thompson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' Amendment to application 09/987,841 has been examined. Claims 1-36 are pending.

1. Applicants' amendment is not considered persuasive.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 13-36 are objected to because of the following informalities: Pursuant to claim 13-24, use the gerund form of "is". Pursuant to claims 28-36, either insert "wherein" after the comma or use the gerund form of "is". Pursuant to claim 14, 15, 20, 22, 23, 28, 30, 31, and 36, the use of precatory language, e.g. "capable of", and "can potentially render this claim indefinite. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Rejection of claims 1-36

4. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burrows et al., U.S. Patent 6,397,117. Burrows discloses a distributed computer aided design system and method (Fig. 1; col. 1, line 62 to col. 2, line 17).

5. Pursuant to claim 1, Burrows teaches a circuit simulation method for carrying out operation simulation of an electronic circuit through a network (col. 1, 2; see also Fig. 2), said circuit simulation method comprising the steps of sending, from a first information processing apparatus connected with said network (Figs. 2, 3; col. 4), circuit data indicating characteristics of said electronic circuit (Fig. 5; col. 3, ll. 14-24) through said network; receiving said circuit data at a second information processing apparatus connected with said network (Figs. 3,4; col. 4, ll. 50-54), said second information processing apparatus being arranged that circuit models describing electronic circuit operations are stored to enable operational simulation thereon (col. 4, ll. 54-61); carrying out operational simulation of said electronic circuit at said second information processing apparatus using said circuit models and said circuit data and sending results of said operational simulation from said second information processing apparatus through said network (cols. 4 and 5).

6. Pursuant to claim 2, wherein at said step of sending results of the operational simulation, the results are sent to the first information processing apparatus from the second information processing apparatus through the network (Fig. 3 illustrates this limitation).

7. Pursuant to claim 3, wherein each of the circuit models includes device models (col. 2, ll. 57-65; col. 4, ll. 5-14).

8. Pursuant to claim 4, wherein each of the device models includes transistor models (col. 2, ll. 57-65; col. 4, ll. 5-14)..

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9. Pursuant to claim 5, this independent claim incorporates the limitations of claim 1 and additionally teaches a circuit simulation apparatus. Burrows additionally discloses this feature and therefore claim 5 is likewise rejected based on the same reasoning as claim 1.

10. Pursuant to claims 6-8, these claims incorporate the limitations previously rejected in claims 2-4 and therefore claims 6-8 are likewise rejected based on the same reasoning.

11. Pursuant to claim 9, this independent claim incorporates the limitations of claim 1 and additionally teaches a computer program product storable on a storage medium. Burrows additionally discloses this feature and therefore claim 9 is likewise rejected based on the same reasoning as claim 1.

12. Pursuant to claims 10-12, these claims incorporate the limitations previously rejected in claims 2-4 and therefore claims 10-12 are likewise rejected based on the same reasoning.

13. Pursuant to claims 13-36, Burrows teaches the use of passwords to ensure authorized users (col. 5, ll. 12-20), and separate areas of the storage regions for storing various circuit related parameters/models (col. 5, ll. 22-46).

Remarks

14. Burrows teaches the predefined authorizations (col. 5, ll. 12-20 and additionally includes the limitations of the newly added claims. Accordingly, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

15. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Examiner A.M. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1909. The Examiner can usually be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith, can be reached on (571) 272-1907.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562 or the Customer Service Center whose telephone number is (571) 272-1750.

17. Responses to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for all **OFFICIAL** communications intended for entry)



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